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AN

ACT

For the better

PRESERVATION

OF THE

GAME.

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WHEREAS the Several Laws heretofore Made for the Preservation of the Game have proved ineffectual, and it being necessary that the Laws now in Force for Preventing the Abuses of Carriers, Poachers, and others, Carrying and Selling the same, should be Amended and Made more Effectual:

Be it therefore Enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the

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Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament Aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That no Perſon ſhall, upon any Pretence whatſoever, Take with Nets or otherwiſe, or in any Manner whatſoever, Kill or Deſtroy any Pheaſant, from the Firſt Day of February to the Firſt Day of September; Or any Partridge, from the Firſt Day of February to the Firſt Day of Auguſt; Or any Quaile, from the Firſt Day of February to the Firſt Day of Auguſt; Or any Grouſe, from the Firſt Day of February to the Firſt Day of Auguſt in any Year.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Perſon who ſhall Take, Kill, or Deſtroy, or who ſhall Sell, or Expoſe to Sale, or who ſhall Buy, or Cauſe to be Bought, any Pheaſant, Partridge, Quaile, or Grouſe, within the reſpective Times hereinbefore Mentioned, ſhall for every Pheaſant, Partridge, Quaile, or Grouſe, ſo Taken, Killed or Deſtroyed, or ſo Sold or Expoſed to Sale, or ſo Bought as aforeſaid, Forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds Sterling, for every ſuch Offence, to be Levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods of the Offender; And in Caſe of Inſolvency, the Party Offending ſhall Suffer Impriſonment for the Space of Three Months.

And

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And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons, shall Buy, or Cause to be Bought, Sell, or Expose to Sale any Hare or Hares, from the First Day of February to the First Day of October, under the Penalty of Five Pounds for each Hare so Bought or Sold as aforesaid, to be Recovered as hereinafter is Directed.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Offences against this Act, shall and may be Enquired into, and Determined either by the Oath or Oaths of One or more Credible Witness or Witnesses, or by the Confession of the Parties Accused, before any One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County, where the Offence shall be Commited, or where the Offender shall be Found, and such Justice of the Peace is hereby Impowered to Grant and Issue his Warrant for the Distraining and Sale of the Goods of the Party Offending, in Order to Raise the Penalty aforesaid, or if he shall be Insolvent, for Committing the Party for the Time herein before Limitted to the County Goal.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforsaid, That all Forfeitures to be Incurred for any Offence against this Act, shall, when Recovered, be Paid to the Informer or Prosecutor.

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And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Perſon ſhall be Sued or Proſecuted for any Thing done in Execution of this Act, he and they may and ſhall Plead the General Iſſue, and Give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence, and the Judges ſhall Allow thereof.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That this Act ſhall Continue and be in Force for Two Years, from the Firſt Day of March, One thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty two, and from the End of the ſaid Two Years, to the End of the then next Seſſion of Parliament.